EURASIAN EXPERIMENT JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH
(EEJSAR) ISSN: 2992-4146
©EEJSAR Publications Volume 6 Issue 2 2024

# The Impact of Cultural Shifts on Art and Medicine

**Mwende Muthoni D.**

**Faculty of Medicine Kampala International University Uganda**

## ABSTRACT

This study examines how cultural shifts influence the interconnected evolution of art and medicine, investigating how changes in societal values shape both artistic expression and medical practice. By analyzing historical and contemporary intersections, we trace how ethical, social, and philosophical transformations resonate across these fields, highlighting their roles in addressing human experiences of illness, healing, and well-being. As modern technology propels medicine forward, the need to retain a humanistic approach through art becomes more crucial, balancing technical advancements with compassion in healthcare. Through this framework, the paper presents insights into how art fosters empathy, resilience, and deeper meaning in the medical field, bridging gaps that arise as medicine becomes increasingly mechanized.

**Keywords:** Cultural shifts, art, and medicine, societal values, humanistic healthcare, interdisciplinary approach.

## INTRODUCTION

Across time, there has been a recognizable connection between transformation in societal values, cultural shifts in perspective, and creation in the spheres of the arts and medicine. The intangible nature of the expression also elicits the drive and ability of a culture to express itself, in a call and response to the changes it is experiencing. Art, and certainly humanities-based education, becomes a touchstone in the evolving social and moral empathies of a society, and for the individual within it. The enduring and timeless projections of these shifts reside within art. Art and medicine, inspired by the new imperatives, transcend the limitations of their ancestor technologies and knowledge, becoming an irrevocable index to the trajectory of their culture. As these works weave themselves in context within an oscillating temporal landscape, they become not only a record of need but designate a clear and enduring tonality throughout history, forever revealing the cohesive entangled narrative of two themes crucial to humanity [1, 2, 3]. Certain cultural shifts appear to reverberate through the spheres of art, medicine, and society, featuring a constancy of themes that can be found both explicitly and implicitly within these historical representations. Ethical, social, economic, political, philosophical, and religious transitions not only yield insight into these particular relationships in a given modality but also allow us access to a deeper understanding of the impetus responsible for change itself. The fundamental question that arises is why, when, and where such shifts occur, and what are the specific motivations for each resculpture? Only a closer examination of these overlapping narratives especially those that are unwritten or overlooked may engender the questions and implicit understandings necessary for effectual and lasting crafted connections between the arts and medicine, and serve as catalysts in the fields of education, experience, public health, and policy [4, 5, 6].

### Historical Overview of Art and Medicine

People have always looked for ways to express in art and words their relationship with their own body, their knowledge about and feelings in it, and the various medical phenomena that underlie their abilities and fates. Art and medicine have always grown and inspired each other so heavily in defining and supporting the basic issues of human existence vulnerability and strength, illness and healing, birth and death that they gravitate around the same cultural nucleus, whose transformations over time also proportionally affect each one of them. Between these two spheres, a tumultuous two-way exchange of themes, objects of cognition, and dialogue occurs. In the course of time, as dramatic and well-documented as the entangling main paths have been, there have been more secondary ones, whose message often has passed underestimated to future generations of collectors, students, or citizens [7, 8, 9]. The legacy of the relationship between art and medicine has been continuously shedding new light on works of art through ever-more refined artistic and technological skills. The painting or sculpture, as a cross-section of a wider cultural and communicative process, reacquired the power both to initiate and to condense spatial-temporal paths, re-encouraging a dialogue that, from the private details of the collector or the connoisseur, has the intrinsic value of designing paths in the wider garden of humanity. These exchanges have promoted several comics and have led to laughter and significant events. It cannot be stressed too often that for older and newer generations of caring faces and hearts, literature and the arts encourage a dynamic stay in our Garden of Eden, characterized by the presence of more centers, intelligence formats, and ethical and emotional values. Art has actually rediscovered its ancient and modern duty not only of creating beauty but also of actively making a cultural masterpiece. This book brings to the surface conversations that have been ongoing since ancient times and thus serve as a treasure trove for the histories of both art and medicine [10, 11, 12].

## Cultural Shifts in Art and Their Impact on Medicine

The first transformative impact of the 'art revolution' of the late 19th century is reflected in the planning and building of a new healthcare institution—modern hospitals. These are no longer modeled after schools or military compounds but after modern hotels and palaces for pleasure. If modern hospitals can become the homes of a new kind of science and practice of medicine, they must be filled with images of a new kind of art, but also, eventually, a new kind of human being who would accept healing in such elegant surroundings. The way to use this new kind of space efficiently was soon discovered through evidence-based medicine and personal physician-patient relationships, and the secret was in testimony about suffering. Changes in art and medicine can go in either direction, but there is no denying that in Western culture, the artists are the vanguard of the revolution because they are free to express their entire emotional and personal spectrum. Where there is no freedom, artistic forms quickly start to replicate, to proscribe, or to mimic the original ones. Ultimately, the loss of freedom affects even the field of medicine, as we are experiencing today in internationally active medical journals. Since we are entering the spiritual realm, both art and medicine are emotionally different from other aspects of regular culture, and these changes are not the primary subjects of analysis of either equally emotionally charged psychology or sociology [13, 14, 15].

## Cultural Shifts in Medicine and Their Impact on Art

The Impact of Cultural Shifts on Art and Medicine. The early dialogue on the impact of cultural shifts centered on the impact of scientific discovery and invention on automation, depersonalization, and increased suffering. The potential outcome of depersonalization by increasing the reliance on mechanical technological advances or experts in drug therapies to deliver prescribed interventions is the reduction of health care to technology devoid of caring. The balance between our caring and machines as health professionals will depend on the culture within which recovery occurs. The exponential growth in medical knowledge mandates the need for mechanical technological advances, yet care necessitates the preservation of caring and compassion within the profession. The needs of patients are multifaceted, and no machine can imbue life with meaning or purpose to stimulate recuperation, deepen love, intensify laughter, or lend joy. Cultural shifts in medicine over the ages and at this moment in time have impacted medical art. The heritage of medicine depends not only on technical skills but on the way the patient and the doctor interact. Medicine and art coexist or accentuate both art and beauty through their miracles of existence, prevention, and relief to heal [16, 17, 18]. The need for balance between scientific knowledge through advances in technological developments and the intuitive skills of a caring profession boils down to balancing technical computer and machine advances with caring interactions vital to the restoration of health from illness. There is currently improved interest in unlocking the mysteries of the intuitive and emotional aspects of healing through renewed interest in them. Our minds use the power of art to unlock our ability to connect with our own emotions while handling such communications. Art communicates healing sensations and the depiction of symptoms-driven illness. The greatest art comes from within, through brush strokes, chisels, and a doctor's touch. Art and medicine have always been connected throughout history. Each discipline has used the essence of the other to expand and explore the boundaries. In current medical teaching, critical thinking skills are fostered with little emphasis on art unless aesthetics in terminologies or visual aids during medical presentations symbolize the close link between the two disciplines. Engaging and enhancing the mind as a tool provides a foundation for the arts, enabling the world to revolutionize. We will fade and decay as human beings if we ablate our minds, for all the positive traits of humanity are present in art and medicine working together [19, 20, 21].

## Intersectionality of Art and Medicine in Contemporary Society

For centuries, art and medicine went hand in hand: the definition of self in medicine intersected with human consciousness and art, and the body was an essential visual tool for medical research and practice. Recent shifts in culture and technology, however, have expanded the vocabulary for these fundamental topics, especially in the field of medicine. For instance, medical practice is no longer about treating the body in a purely functional manner; the act of "being" is now an important part of treatment. Concomitantly, the number of people professionally occupied with the visual representation of who "we" are has burgeoned. Media culture overinflates the importance of appearances, which has led to the demand for professional beauty aesthetics to cater to the externalized "being". Consequently, relationships between appearance and internal processes, especially in the area of communication sciences, have been reopened and expanded [22, 23, 24].

## CONCLUSION

Cultural shifts continue to shape art and medicine, underscoring their unique yet intertwined roles in the human experience. As medicine advances technologically, there remains an essential need for a compassionate and human-centered approach. Art provides a critical conduit for empathy, self-reflection, and healing, qualities vital to patient care. By embracing both the precision of science and the emotional depth of art, healthcare can maintain its humanity and effectiveness. This synergy between art and medicine will guide future practices, encouraging practitioners to balance technical skill with empathy, ultimately enhancing well-being and fostering more holistic healing in society.

## REFERENCES

1. Sharp J, Pollock V, Paddison R. Just art for a just city: Public art and social inclusion in urban regeneration. InCulture-Led Urban Regeneration 2020 Nov 25 (pp. 156-178). Routledge.
2. Peterson RA, Anand N. The production of culture perspective. Annu. Rev. Sociol.. 2004 Aug 11;30(1):311-34.
3. Zhang Z. Infrastructuralization of Tik Tok: Transformation, power relationships, and platformization of video entertainment in China. Media, Culture & Society. 2021 Mar;43(2):219-36.
4. Irshadeen IM, Walden SL, Wegener M, Truong VX, Frisch H, Blinco JP, Barner-Kowollik C. Action plots in action: in-depth insights into photochemical reactivity. Journal of the American Chemical Society. 2021 Dec 3;143(50):21113-26. [HTML]
5. Degroot D, Anchukaitis K, Bauch M, Burnham J, Carnegy F, Cui J, de Luna K, Guzowski P, Hambrecht G, Huhtamaa H, Izdebski A. Towards a rigorous understanding of societal responses to climate change. Nature. 2021 Mar 25;591(7851):539-50. butterflyinformatics.org
6. Achim A, Moreau G, Coops NC, Axelson JN, Barrette J, Bédard S, Byrne KE, Caspersen J, Dick AR, D'Orangeville L, Drolet G. The changing culture of silviculture. Forestry. 2022 Apr;95(2):143-52. oup.com
7. Mosqueira-Rey E, Hernández-Pereira E, Alonso-Ríos D, Bobes-Bascarán J, Fernández-Leal Á. Human-in-the-loop machine learning: a state of the art. Artificial Intelligence Review. 2023 Apr;56(4):3005-54. springer.com
8. Górriz JM, Ramírez J, Ortiz A, Martinez-Murcia FJ, Segovia F, Suckling J, Leming M, Zhang YD, Álvarez-Sánchez JR, Bologna G, Bonomini P. Artificial intelligence within the interplay between natural and artificial computation: Advances in data science, trends and applications. Neurocomputing. 2020 Oct 14;410:237-70. sciencedirect.com
9. Gupta N. <? covid19?> Singing Away the Social Distancing Blues: Art Therapy in a Time of Coronavirus. Journal of Humanistic Psychology. 2020 Sep;60(5):593-603.
10. Smydra R, May M, Taranikanti V, Mi M. Integration of arts and humanities in medical education: a narrative review. Journal of Cancer Education. 2022 Oct 1:1-8.
11. Aitken RJ, Bakos HW. Should we be measuring DNA damage in human spermatozoa? New light on an old question. Human Reproduction. 2021 May 1;36(5):1175-85.
12. Dai H, Younis A, Kong JD, Puce L, Jabbour G, Yuan H, Bragazzi NL. Big data in cardiology: State-of-art and future prospects. Frontiers in cardiovascular medicine. 2022 Apr 1;9:844296.

13. Ranjan R, Ch B. A comprehensive roadmap for transforming healthcare from hospital-centric to patient-centric through healthcare internet of things (IoT). Engineered Science. 2024 Jun 17;30:1175.
14. Maleki Varnosfaderani S, Forouzanfar M. The role of AI in hospitals and clinics: transforming healthcare in the 21st century. Bioengineering. 2024 Mar 29;11(4):337.
15. Husnain A, Rasool S, Saeed A, Gill AY, Hussain HK. AI'S healing touch: examining machine learning's transformative effects on healthcare. Journal of World Science. 2023 Oct 30;2(10):1681-95. rivierapublishing.id
16. Jeannotte MS. When the gigs are gone: Valuing arts, culture and media in the COVID-19 pandemic. Social Sciences & Humanities Open. 2021 Jan 1;3(1):100097.
17. Lebowitz MS, Appelbaum PS. Biomedical explanations of psychopathology and their implications for attitudes and beliefs about mental disorders. Annual Review of Clinical Psychology. 2019 May 7;15(1):555-77.
18. Nieblas-Bedolla E, Christophers B, Nkinsi NT, Schumann PD, Stein E. Changing how race is portrayed in medical education: recommendations from medical students. Academic Medicine. 2020 Dec 1;95(12):1802-6. researchgate.net
19. Tan AC, Ashley DM, López GY, Malinzak M, Friedman HS, Khasraw M. Management of glioblastoma: State of the art and future directions. CA: a cancer journal for clinicians. 2020 Jul;70(4):299-312. wiley.com
20. Yu H, Yang LT, Zhang Q, Armstrong D, Deen MJ. Convolutional neural networks for medical image analysis: state-of-the-art, comparisons, improvement and perspectives. Neurocomputing. 2021 Jul 15;444:92-110.
21. Klepper J, Akman C, Armeno M, Auvin S, Cervenka M, Cross HJ, De Giorgis V, Della Marina A, Engelstad K, Heussinger N, Kossoff EH. Glut1 Deficiency Syndrome (Glut1DS): State of the art in 2020 and recommendations of the international Glut1DS study group. Epilepsia open. 2020 Sep;5(3):354-65. wiley.com
22. Bragazzi NL, Mansour M, Bonsignore A, Ciliberti R. The role of hospital and community pharmacists in the management of COVID-19: towards an expanded definition of the roles, responsibilities, and duties of the pharmacist. Pharmacy. 2020 Aug 7;8(3):140.
23. Knowles JK, Helbig I, Metcalf CS, Lubbers LS, Isom LL, Demarest S, Goldberg EM, George Jr AL, Lerche H, Weckhuysen S, Whittemore V. Precision medicine for genetic epilepsy on the horizon: Recent advances, present challenges, and suggestions for continued progress. Epilepsia. 2022 Oct;63(10):2461-75. nih.gov
24. Stein DJ, Shoptaw SJ, Vigo DV, Lund C, Cuijpers P, Bantjes J, Sartorius N, Maj M. Psychiatric diagnosis and treatment in the 21st century: paradigm shifts versus incremental integration. World Psychiatry. 2022 Oct;21(3):393-414. wiley.com

**CITE AS: Mwende Muthoni D. (2024). The Impact of Cultural Shifts on Art and Medicine. EURASIAN EXPERIMENT JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH, 6 (2):42-45.**